



Open House

JSC opens doors, rolls out red carpet for public

While the weather may have kept large crowds away from JSC's Open House, the visitors who did brave the weather praised JSC employees and the space program.

The second annual JSC Open House is history and, according to some visitors, an event that must continue.

"This was a great family outing," said a visitor from The Woodlands. "Our three kids, ages 4 through 9, loved it. I hope you continue with open houses. We are new to the area and our 7 year old has decided he will definitely be an astronaut. A mom can not complain about that."

More than 20,000 visitors were given the opportunity to explore 18 buildings on site, Ellington Field and the Sonny Carter Training Facility. During the open house, visitors could run their fingers through simulated Martian soil in Bldg. 11 or hop in a T-38 cockpit trainer for a photo session at Ellington Field.

"This was wonderful," said a visitor from Angleton. "We thought it would be an educational experience for our son, but it turned into one for us as well. Thanks."

Not only did Houston residents benefit from the open house, visitors from across the country were attracted to the event.

"At 10 p.m. last night, I called the JSC public info line and found out about your open house," said a visitor from Raleigh, North Carolina. "I am an airline employee, so I have

the freedom to decide at 10 p.m. that I will be on an airplane at 6:50 a.m. the next day. Thank you for putting on an event I had to attend. Amazing."

JSC employees received the majority of good marks while other visitors commented on their now expanded understanding of space technology.

"This was a great tour and the enthusiasm of all the employees shows. This has great educational value and a way to get today's kids excited about space as I was growing up in

Houston when we were landing on the moon," said a long-time Houston area resident.

Event Coordinator Kari Fluegel also praised employees efforts.

"This year we were in a very fortunate position to

build upon the success of the open house in 1995," she said. "A lot of people worked very hard to try to make this year's open house better and the guests' response was tremendous. We are very proud of the job everyone did."

The majority of guests who took the time to fill out comment cards said they did learn new things about the space program during the open house and would like to learn more.

"The Open House was fantastic," said a visitor from Hallsville, Texas. "I now have a better understanding of all that is involved in space explorations, incredible teamwork and technology. The volunteers were extremely friendly and helpful. Thank you." □



JSC Photos

From top to bottom, left to right: 1) Phil West of the Crew and Thermal Systems Division talks to visitors about EVA suits in Bldg. 32. 2) Astronaut Ed Lu signs autographs in Bldg. 11. 3) From left, Tanya Archer and P.D. Lambert of the Automation, Robotics and Simulation Division operate the air bearing supported chair with thruster controls on the large air bearing floor in Bldg. 9. 4) Mae Mangieri of the Education and Information Services Branch helps a young visitor launch his model rocket. 5) Visitors to Bldg. 2 were able to guess what cities they were seeing from infrared space photographs. 6) A Mars display in Bldg. 11 features simulated Martian soil visitors could touch. 7) Troy Stewart of the Crew and Thermal Systems Division displays a crew escape suit to a young visitor. 8) A highlight of the Ellington Field tour was a chance for a picture pose in a T-38 cockpit trainer. 9) A family takes a tour of the KC-135 at Ellington Field.